

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Annual Assessment of the Status of)	MB Docket No. 12-203
Competition in the Market for the)	
Delivery of Video Programming)	

**COMMENTS OF
CITY OF ERIE CABLE TV ACCESS CORPORATION**

The **City of Erie Cable TV Access Corporation (“CECTAC”)** submits these comments in response to the above-captioned Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”), released July 20, 2012, seeking “data, information, and comment on the state of competition in the delivery of video programming.”

CECTAC is an independent non-profit 501(c)3 organization providing public access programming to residents of the City of Erie, Pennsylvania on cable channel 2. We provide the training, equipment and physical facilities for residents to be able to have a voice in our local media.

1. Time Warner provides four channels for access: two for educational, one for government and the **CECTAC** channel for public access.
2. These channels are all on the lowest tier of service and can be received on any analog television set.
3. There is no change in the number of access channels since June of 2010.
4. Time Warner has worked with **CECTAC** to publish our program schedule within their on-screen program guide. This information is also published in the daily newspaper and is also available on our website via an interactive program guide.
5. We are not an AT&T U-Verse community.

6. **CEPTAC** has been designated by the Erie City Council, pursuant to the franchise agreement between the City of Erie and Time Warner Cable, to provide public access television facilities, programming, production and training for the Erie community.

CEPTAC allows individuals access to the tools of media production, training, the space and the channel to address the needs of this community. Access is provided through both individual and organizational membership levels. Once members join, they can receive training in several different workshops. After they have been trained, members are able to reserve equipment and facilities and begin producing their own programs, with some additional assistance. Our staff then helps them with post-production that ranges from cable casting on our station to uploading to their organization's You Tube channel.

CEPTAC empowers citizens of Erie County, assists them in elevating their career skills and provides a valuable outreach resource. Individuals from all walks of life and areas of interest are represented on our membership roster and produce a multitude of non-series programs. Our members produce a wide variety of programming that runs the gamut from promoting community organizations to providing unique local, original entertainment. **CEPTAC** is the only channel in Erie that cablecasts full-length, original, locally produced non-news programs. During the past year, **CEPTAC** held over 30 classes and educational workshops that varied in length from one hour to four weeks. In 2011 our membership produced 6,600 hours of programming for the Erie community with members contributing over 3,200 hours of their time toward access TV production. There are several groups that regularly produce new episodes and about a dozen producers who generate non-series programming. In addition, with the help of our members, **CEPTAC** shoots three multi-day festivals, charity benefits and a number of political forums each year.

The nonprofit community has also used **CEPTAC** to its advantage in bringing local issues to the forefront of local dialog. Without the services **CEPTAC** offers, many non-profit groups would be limited in their ability to reach out to beneficiaries and donors.

Currently, we have significant funding concerns in that 97% of our operating funds come from a franchise fee of 1% on only the Basic tier of cable service. Our studio equipment was obtained during the period from 1991 through 2002, through grants from the cable operator, specified in the original franchise agreement. There have been no significant additional grants since 2002 and we continue to keep our facility and aging equipment operating as best we can. The franchise fees are not sufficient to allow any significant updates in technology, including upgrades to high definition cameras, switching gear, monitors or editing equipment. It is our goal to obtain funds to go to a high definition TV channel placed on an Extended Basic cable tier. At **CECTAC**, we hope that any actions of the FCC will strengthen and not diminish our position in working with Time Warner to provide sufficient cable TV public access for the citizens of Erie.

Robert Lechner
Executive Director
City of Erie Cable TV Access Corporation
142 W 12th St
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 454-2226
rlechner@catverie.org

9/10/2012